

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claims 6 and 9 as follows:

1. (Canceled)
2. (Previously presented) A method for preprocessing audio data to be processed by a predetermined codec having variable coding rate, comprising the steps of:
 - classifying the audio data based on a characteristic of the audio data;
 - in case the audio data includes monophonic sound, performing AGC (automatic gain control) preprocessing of all frames before the audio data is subject to the codec, such that said all frames are processed in the codec in a bit rate higher than the bit rate without the preprocessing; and
 - in case the audio data includes polyphonic sound, performing AGC preprocessing of selected frames before the audio data is subject to the codec, such that said selected frames are processed in the codec in the bit rate higher than the bit rate without the preprocessing.
3. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 2, wherein the step of performing AGC preprocessing of selected frames include deciding whether a frame in the audio data includes noise signal or not.

4. (Previously presented) A method for preprocessing audio data to be processed by a codec having variable coding rate, comprising the steps of:

deciding an interval of audio data that is to be encoded in a low bit rate in said codec;
and

adjusting the amplitude of audio data of the decided interval before the audio data is processed by the codec, such that the audio data in the interval may be encoded in a bit rate higher than or equal to said low bit rate when processed by the codec.

5. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 4, wherein the adjusting step comprises the steps of:

calculating signal levels of the audio data;
deciding smoothed gain coefficients based on signal levels; and
generating preprocessed audio data by multiplying the smoothed gain coefficients to the audio data in the decided interval.

6. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for providing audio data to be encoded by a codec having variable encoding rate, comprising:

means for deciding an interval of audio data that is to be encoded in a low bit rate by said codec; and

means for adjusting the amplitude of audio data of the decided interval before the audio data is processed by the codec, such that the audio data in the interval may be encoded in a bit rate higher than or equal to said low bit rate when processed by the codec.

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7. (Previously presented) A method for preprocessing audio data to be processed by a codec having variable coding rate, wherein the codec is capable of determining whether data fed to the codec is noise signal or not, comprising the steps of:

deciding whether a frame in the audio data would be determined as noise signal when the audio data is processed by the codec; and

if the signal is determined as noise signal, adjusting an amplitude of the frame such that the adjusted frame is not determined as noise when processed by the codec.

8. (Previously presented) A method for preprocessing audio data to be transmitted through a transmission channel and then to be processed by a codec having variable coding rate, comprising the steps of:

adjusting an amplitude of audio data before the audio data is transmitted through the transmission channel, such that the audio data is processed in the codec in a higher bit rate from the bit rate without the adjusting.

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9. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for preprocessing audio data to be processed by a codec having variable coding rate, the apparatus being apart from the predetermined codec, comprising:

means for classifying the audio data based on the characteristic of the audio data;

means for deciding an interval of the audio data that is to be encoded in a low bit rate in said codec in case the audio data is determined to include polyphonic sound based on the classification; and

means for performing AGC (automatic gain control) preprocessing of all frames before the audio data is subject to the codec in case the audio data is determined to include monophonic sound based on the classification, and performing AGC preprocessing of frames of the decided interval before the audio data is subject to the codec in case the audio data is determined to include polyphonic sound based on the classification.

means for adjusting the amplitude of the audio data such that the audio data is processed in the codec in higher bit rate from the bit rate without the amplitude adjustment.